

## Additional information on the birds of Guerrero, Mexico

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The avifauna of the state of Guerrero, like that of many areas in Mexico, is relatively little-studied. Griscom (1934) discussed an extensive collection of specimens from the state, obtained by the veteran collector W. W. Brown between 1930 and 1932, and also gave a summary of earlier ornithological work in Guerrero. Further information on the state's avifauna has been provided by Griscom (1937), Davis (1944), Blake (1950), Dixon & Davis (1958), Navarro (1986), Howell & Wilson (1990), Howell (1992), Navarro (1992), Navarro *et al.* (1992a), Webb & Howell (1993), and Howell & Engel (1993). Friedmann *et al.* (1950) and Miller *et al.* (1957) provided a simple listing of species recorded from Guerrero.

We visited Guerrero to observe birds for a total of 26 days as follows: 18–19 December 1984 (SNGH and P. Pyle), 14 December 1985 (SNGH and R. G. Wilson), 2–3 June 1986 (SNGH and R. G. Wilson), 4 January 1987 (SNGH and SW), 11–18 April 1988 (SNGH and SW), 22–24 March 1990 (SNGH and R. G. Wilson), 20–25 May 1990 (SNGH and SW), 7–9 October 1993 (SNGH).

We here summarize observations of 44 species that supplement the information available on the avifauna of Guerrero, including 20 species previously unreported from the state. We also provide supporting evidence for one species whose occurrence in Guerrero has been questioned, and question the occurrence of two species traditionally attributed to the state's avifauna. Our observations refer largely to the humid, coastal-facing slopes of the Sierra Madre del Sur (or Sierra de Atoyac), although we report some records from the coastal lowlands and interior of Guerrero.

Most of the information on Guerrero has been based on collections centred on the capital Chilpancingo, on the famous locality of Omiltemi high in the Sierra Madre del Sur, and in the vicinity of Acapulco on the coast. The coastal-facing slopes of the Sierra Madre del Sur have remained largely unstudied, although visited briefly by collectors, e.g. Chester C. Lamb who, in 1947, discovered the distinctive and still little-known Short-crested Coquette *Lophornis brachylopha* (Moore 1949, Howell 1992). Navarro (1986, 1992) analysed the altitudinal distribution and ecological characteristics of bird species on the coastal slope of the Sierra Madre del Sur in Guerrero, based on 90 days of field work between March 1983 and May 1985. While he made a significant contribution, many species not detected simply by mist-netting were overlooked. For example, in a total of 11 days in April 1988 and March and May 1992 we visited areas corresponding to three of Navarro's (1986, 1992) eleven study sites and recorded 48 species not found by him. Navarro (1986, 1992)

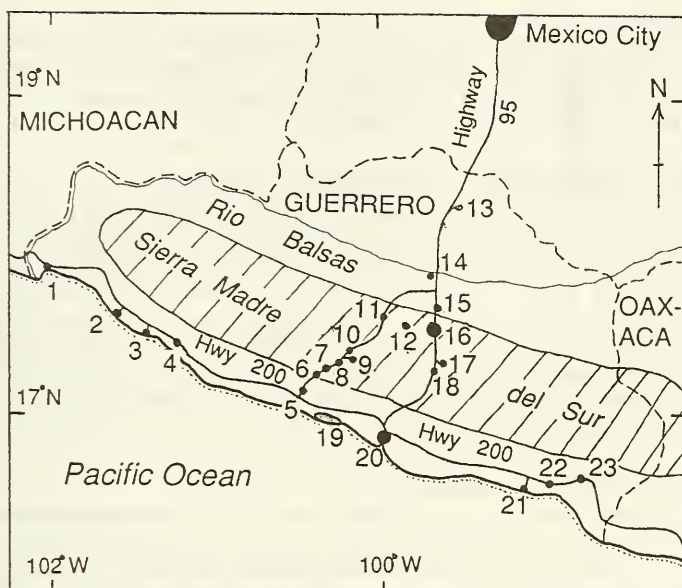


Figure 1. The state of Guerrero, Mexico, showing places mentioned in the species accounts. 1, Petacalco; 2, Zihuatanejo; 3, Barra de Potosi; 4, Petatlan; 5, Atoyac; 6, Rio Santiago; 7, San Vicente de Benitez; 8, Paraiso; 9, Arroyo Grande; 10, Nueva Delhi; 11, Filo de Caballo; 12, Omiltemi; 13, Laguna de Tuxpan; 14, Mexcala; 15, Zumpango del Rio; 16, Chilpancingo; 17, Acahuizotla; 18, Agua de Obispo; 19, Laguna Mitla; 20, Acapulco; 21, Laguna Chautengo; 22, Marquelia; 23, Juchitan.

listed 162 species and thus overlooked at least 23% of the potential avifauna.

Certainly, much remains to be learned about the avifauna of Guerrero, one of the most ornithologically diverse states in Mexico. The following accounts convey new distributional information and for some species provide an idea of relative abundance, since essentially no data are available on this subject for the state of Guerrero. Elevations of occurrence for presumed breeding species in the Sierra Madre del Sur are given to the nearest 50 m. The notation NG indicates species for which we have found no previously documented record for the state. Figure 1 shows localities mentioned in the species accounts.

#### THICKET TINAMOU *Crypturellus cinnamomeus*

Friedmann *et al.* (1950) described this tinamou as a fairly common resident in western Mexico, from Sinaloa to Guerrero. Navarro (1992), however, described this species as "rare" ("seen only once or twice in the entire study"). We heard up to 8 Thicket Tinamous per day between San Vicente de Benitez and Paraiso (900–1000 m) in Apr 1988, and up to 10 per day in Mar and May 1990, supporting the evaluation of Friedmann *et al.* (1950).

**EARED GREBE** *Podiceps nigricollis*

We have two records of this species from Guerrero: 6 birds along the Guerrero side of the Rio Balsas near its mouth, where it forms the state border with Michoacan, 18 Jan 1984, and one bird in alternate plumage at Laguna de Tuxpan, 2 Jun 1986. NG.

**WESTERN/CLARK'S GREBE** *Aechmophorus occidentalis/clarki*

The southernmost breeding site for both of these grebes is Laguna de Tuxpan. No data appear to be available on the population size or proportion of the two forms there beyond two "dark phase" (i.e., Western) and four "light phase" (i.e., Clark's) specimens reported by Dickerman (1973). On 2 Jun 1986 Howell counted 360–400 *Aechmophorus* grebes on Laguna de Tuxpan; the 50 closest birds were 28 Western and 22 Clark's. On 20 May 1990 we counted 165+ *Aechmophorus* grebes at the lake, of which all but one Western were too distant for specific identification.

**KING VULTURE** *Sarcoramphus papa*

On 23 May 1990 we saw an adult King Vulture soaring over the road 3 km north of San Vicente de Benitez, and a single and two adults over the road 2–5 km south of San Vicente (900–1000 m). The King Vulture has been reported rarely from west Mexico, with records from Sinaloa and Nayarit (Freidmann *et al.* 1950) and from Colima (Schaldach 1963); surprisingly there appear to be no records from the Pacific slope of Oaxaca west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (Binford 1989). NG.

**WHITE-TAILED KITE** *Elanus leucurus*

The only record we have from Guerrero of this conspicuous raptor is one seen on 18 Jan 1984 along the coastal highway between the Michoacan border and Acapulco. NG.

**SNAIL KITE** *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

The early morning of 18 Apr 1988 we watched an adult male and three female or immature Snail Kites feeding at the ponds south of Highway 200, a few km east of Juchitan. At 08.40 all four kites circled up from the ponds and drifted overhead off to the east. This is the only Pacific slope record of Snail Kites we are aware of west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Oaxaca where the species is described as a "rare spring and summer visitant" (Binford 1989). NG.

**DOUBLE-TOOTHED KITE** *Harpagus bidentatus*

Dixon & Davis (1958) reported two specimens of this species from the Sierra Madre del Sur of Guerrero, in Jul 1941 and Jun 1954, although AOU (1983) overlooked these records. We observed an adult Double-toothed Kite perched in a tree by the road 1 km north of Rio Santiago (1000 m), 23 May 1990. This species appears to be an uncommon and local resident in western Mexico, and also has been found recently in Jalisco and Colima (Howell, pers. obs.).

**SHORT-TAILED HAWK** *Buteo brachyurus*

Although Friedmann *et al.* (1950) listed no records from Guerrero, and Peterson & Chalif (1973) described Short-tailed Hawk as "rare, local" in Mexico, this species, with which we are very familiar, is one of the commonest hawks on both slopes of Mexico (pers. obs.). Our records from Guerrero whence, remarkably, there appear to be no previous published records, include 37 dark and 22 light morphs at numerous sites in the coastal lowlands and coastal-facing slopes of the Sierra Madre del Sur, from sea level to 1600 m elevation (localities 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 20, 22, and 23 on Fig. 1). We have records in Jan, Mar, Apr, May and Oct. NG.

**BLACK HAWK-EAGLE** *Spizaetus tyrannus*

Howell saw two birds, calling and soaring, 2.5 km north of San Vicente, on 7 Oct 1993. One bird flew as low as 100 m over the road and all features, including the bushy, white-based crest and black-and-white feathered tarsi could be seen clearly. Webb & Howell (1993) reported the only prior record of this unmistakable species from Guerrero where it appears to be an uncommon resident in the Sierra Madre del Sur.

**BARRED FOREST-FALCON** *Micrastur ruficollis*

Phillips (1966) reported the first occurrence of this species from western Mexico: two females collected in the Sierra Madre del Sur of Oaxaca in 1963 and 1964. AOU (1983) described this species' range as "Resident from Guerrero, ... south", although we can find no published record to support this statement, and Binford (1989) considered Oaxaca to be the northwestern limit of the Barred Forest-Falcon's Pacific slope range, adding "occurrence in Guerrero (A.O.U. 1983: 124) needs substantiation".

Howell heard a Barred Forest-Falcon calling 10 km by road SW of Filo de Caballo (2500 m), at dusk on 14 Dec 1985. In 1988 we heard and tape-recorded a Barred Forest-Falcon calling beside the road between Paraiso and Arroyo Grande (1100 m), on 13–14 Apr, and in 1990 we heard one calling near the road between Paraiso and San Vicente de Benitez (950 m) on 23 May.

**BAT FALCON** *Falco ruficularis*

Howell saw a Bat Falcon perched on a dead snag 2 km by road north of Paraiso, 22 Mar 1990, and saw a pair near Nueva Delhi, 23 Mar 1990 and 7 Oct 1993. We saw 2–3 Bat Falcons, including a pair, between Paraiso and Nueva Delhi on 21 May 1990 (850–1400 m). E. G. Strauss (pers. comm.) saw a Bat Falcon 3 km by road south of Paraiso on 17 May 1993. This distinctive small falcon is an uncommon resident on Mexico's Pacific slope, and has been recorded north to southern Sonora. NG.

**SINGING QUAIL** *Dactylortyx thoracicus*

We heard the distinctive, far-carrying 'song' of this species at Arroyo Grande (1350 m) on 14 Apr 1988, below Nueva Delhi (1500 m) on



16 Apr 1988, and, tape-recorded, near San Vicente de Benitez (950 m) on 23 May 1990. The last birds, at least two individuals, were in mixed coffee finca and semideciduous tropical forest, the other birds at the coffee finca-cloud forest ecotone. Navarro (1992) recorded this species only at and above 2500 m in pine-oak-cloud forest, and Warner & Harrell (1957) reported that "In Guerrero, the Singing Quail is found mostly above 6,600 feet" (2000 m). This species' altitudinal and habitat range in Guerrero is wider than previously recognized.

#### AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

Howell saw three basic-plumaged birds at the eastern end of Laguna Mitla, 22 Mar 1990, and two individuals there on 24 Mar 1990. NG.

#### SNOWY PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus*

R. G. Wilson (pers. comm.) saw one Snowy Plover at Barra Vieja, 30 km E of Acapulco, on 30 Aug 1986, and 6 birds on the beach at the E end of Laguna Mitla, 10 Jul 1988. We saw an alternate-plumaged Snowy Plover at Laguna Chautengo on 17 Apr 1988. The only other Mexican Pacific coast records we are aware of for Snowy Plover south of Nayarit are those of Binford (1989) for Oaxaca, and Hunn (1973) for Chiapas. NG.

#### WILSON'S PLOVER *Charadrius wilsonia*

R. G. Wilson (pers. comm.) saw single Wilson's Plovers at Barra Vieja on 30 Aug 1986, and at the east end of Laguna Mitla, 9 Aug 1991. We saw 5 Wilson's Plovers at Laguna Chautengo, 17 Apr 1988, and an alternate-plumaged male at the eastern end of Laguna Mitla, 22 Mar 1990 and 20 May 1990. These records probably represent migrants from northwestern Mexico although the species may breed locally on the coast of Guerrero. NG.

#### BLACK-NECKED STILT *Himantopus mexicanus*

That this species appears not to have been recorded previously from Guerrero (although listed for 20 other states by Friedmann *et al.* 1950) reflects how little historical attention has been paid to water birds in the state. Howell's notes mention it as "common" in Guerrero in Jan 1984 and Jan 1987, and present on 12 Apr 1988 between Petatlan and Atoyac. We saw 15 at Laguna Chautengo, 17 Apr 1988, and 15 near Marquelia, 18 Apr 1988. At the eastern end of Laguna Mitla we saw 50 stilts on 22 Mar 1990, 30 on 24 Mar 1990, and 6 pairs, including 2 birds on nests and a pair with two small chicks, on 20 May 1990. We also saw 100–200 stilts at Barra de Potosi, 24 May 1990. The species thus appears to be a common winter migrant and local, breeding summer resident. NG.

#### AMERICAN AVOCET *Recurvirostra americana*

The introductory comment for Black-necked Stilt applies equally well to this and the five following species. Our records of Avocet from Guerrero are: 2 in basic plumage at Laguna Chautengo, 17 Apr 1988, and 30–40 in alternate plumage at Barra de Potosi, 24 May 1990. NG.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos*

Howell saw one at the east end of Laguna Mitla, 22 and 24 Mar 1990. NG.

**STILT SANDPIPER** *Calidris himantopus*

We noted a single Stilt Sandpiper at a roadside pond near Petatlan, 4 Jan 1987, and saw 2 at Laguna Chautengo, 17 Apr 1988. NG.

**CASPIAN TERN** *Sterna caspia*

Howell noted this species as "fairly common" on 18 Jan 1984 at the Guerrero side of the Rio Balsas near its mouth. We saw 8 at Laguna Chautengo, 17 Apr 1988, a first-year bird at the ponds south of Highway 200, a few km east of Juchitan, 18 Apr 1988, and a first-year at Barra de Potosi, 24 May 1990. At the east end of Laguna Mitla we noted a large aggregation of migrant Caspian Terns in spring 1990: 320 on 22 Mar, and 400 on 24 May; 90% of these birds were adults in alternate plumage, and we saw none at this site on 20 May 1990. NG.

**ELEGANT TERN** *Sterna elegans*

Howell noted 6 Elegant Terns on 18 Jan 1984 at the Guerrero side of the Rio Balsas near its mouth, 4 alternate-plumaged adults at the east end of Laguna Mitla, 24 Mar 1990, and one adult and 2 first-years there on 24 May 1990. NG

**BLACK TERN** *Chidonias niger*

Noted without comment from Guerrero by Friedmann *et al.* (1950). Howell and P. Pyle observed 300+ Black Terns along the coast between the Michoacan border and Acapulco, 18 Jan 1984. They also saw numerous Black Terns at several other sites along and off the coast from Jalisco to Oaxaca in the winter of 1983/84, indicating that this species winters, at least in some years, as far north as western Mexico. Black Terns also are common spring visitors off Guerrero (Howell & Engel 1993).

**BARRED PARAKEET** *Bolborhynchus lineola*

Friedmann *et al.* (1950) and AOU (1983) listed this species from Guerrero, based apparently on a specimen at the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural in Mexico City. We know of no other reports of Barred Parakeet from Guerrero and consider the specimen data to be of doubtful veracity.

**ORANGE-CHINNED PARAKEET** *Brotogeris jugularis*

Friedmann *et al.* (1950) and AOU (1983) listed this species from Guerrero, although we know of no basis for these statements. Since this small parakeet generally is a conspicuous species, and since there are no records from Oaxaca west of the Rio Ostuta, in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (Binford 1989), we consider the occurrence of Orange-chinned Parakeet in Guerrero to be doubtful.

**PHEASANT CUCKOO** *Dromococcyx phasianellus*

We heard and tape-recorded a singing Pheasant Cuckoo between Paraiso and San Vicente de Benitez (950 m), 17 Apr 1988. On 24 Mar 1990 Howell heard and taped 2–3 Pheasant Cuckoos in this same area. The Pheasant Cuckoo is resident at similar elevations in the Sierra Madre del Sur of Oaxaca where it has been recorded west to Putla, within 15 km of Guerrero (Binford 1989). NG.

**EARED POORWILL** *Nyctiphrynus mcleodii*

Five specimens of this little-known nightjar have been reported from Guerrero: two from the “vicinity of Chilpancingo” (Miller 1948) and three from two sites south and west of Chilpancingo (Arnold 1971). On 14 Dec 1985, Howell and R. G. Wilson heard at least 4 Eared Poorwills calling shortly after dusk, 6–10 km SW of Filo de Caballo (2500 m).

**BLACK SWIFT** *Cypseloides niger*

On 12 Apr 1988 we saw a lone Black Swift, apparently a migrant, flying strongly northwest, 20 km east of Petatlan. We observed up to 60–70 Black Swifts circling over the vicinity of Paraiso, 21–23 May 1990 (800–900 m); we watched and heard these birds for 15–25 minutes on each occasion, often at ranges down to 100 m, and in direct comparison with White-collared *Streptoprocne zonaris* and Vaux's *Chaetura vauxi* swifts. While the field identification of swifts is problematic, we have considerable experience with this species in North and Central America and are familiar with its vocalizations. Further, the observed dimorphism in tail shape (cleft in male Black Swifts, squared in females) and direct comparison with other species, support the identification (see Howell & Webb 1994). Navarro *et al.* (1992b) considered that Guerrero lay in “an apparent distribution gap” for Black Swift but we suspect that this species is a summer resident in the Sierra Madre del Sur, as it is in most mountainous areas of central and western Mexico (pers. obs.). NG.

**CHESTNUT-COLLARED SWIFT** *Cypseloides rutilus*

Howell saw 100+ Chestnut-collared Swifts between Acapulco and Agua de Obispo, 19 Jan 1984, and saw and heard six birds 10 km SW of Filo de Caballo, 3 Jun 1986. We saw 17 flying northwest, 20 km east of Petatlan, on 12 Apr 1988, 5 over San Vicente de Benitez, 24 Mar 1990, and 30 birds, including several apparent pairs chasing and calling, 15–20 km by road north of Nueva Delhi, on 22 May 1990. Sea level to 2500 m. NG.

**WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT** *Streptoprocne zonaris*

This swift has long been known to occur in Guerrero but nothing appears to be written on its abundance. White-collared Swifts are fairly common over the humid coastal-facing slopes of the Sierra Madre del Sur, and at times range down to near sea level (R. G. Wilson pers. comm.). Specific records are: between Atoyac and Paraiso (850–1100 m), up to 30 per day, 12–17 Apr 1988, 150+ on 22 Mar 1990, 30+ on 24 Mar 1990, up to 45 per day, 21–23 May 1990.

**WHITE-NAPED SWIFT** *Streptoprocne semicollaris*

In southwest Mexico this swift is characteristic of arid interior regions (pers. obs.), although small numbers range to the coastal slopes of the Sierra Madre del Sur where they may occur in the same flocks with White-collared Swifts. We saw 4–5 White-naped Swifts over Arroyo Grande (1350 m), 13 Apr 1988, 5–6 there on 15 Apr 1988, 4 between Paraiso and San Vicente de Benitez (1000 m), 24 Mar 1990, and one near San Vicente, 8 Oct 1993.

**GREAT SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT** *Panyptila sanctihieronymi*

This spectacular swift was first found in Mexico as recently as 1944, in Chiapas (Alvarez del Toro 1952), with subsequent reports from Michoacan (Selander 1955), Guerrero (Arnold & Maxwell 1970), and Oaxaca (Binford 1989). Howell (ms.) summarized records from northwest Mexico. Specific records remain few and hence we report 2 birds seen low over the town of Zumpango del Rio, the morning of 22 Mar 1990.

**VIOLET SABREWING** *Campylopterus hemileucurus*

Binford (1989) questioned reports of a disjunct population of this hummingbird in Guerrero. Navarro (1986, 1992) reaffirmed the occurrence of Violet Sabrewings in Guerrero: he collected several specimens and considered the species a common resident in cloud forest at 1200–1800 m elevation. We noted up to five Violet Sabrewings per day in Apr 1988 and May 1990, but saw none in Mar 1990. Most were above 1200 m in cloud forest and adjacent disturbed habitat, but we also noted one male at 950 m in semideciduous forest near San Vicente de Benitez on 23 May 1990.

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** *Cynanthus latirostris*

Two distinct forms of Broad-billed Hummingbird, the males of which can be separated in the field, occur in Guerrero: typical Broad-billed Hummingbirds (larger, males with green crowns, blue throats and green chests, and white undertail coverts) and Doubleday's Hummingbirds (smaller, males with blue crowns, blue throats and chests, and dark undertail coverts). The two forms sometimes are considered as separate species (AOU 1983). Typical Broad-billeds have been reported only from interior northern Guerrero, while Doubleday's occurs in the Pacific coastal lowlands from Guerrero to western Oaxaca (Friedmann *et al.* 1950, Binford 1989). On 11 Apr 1988 we found a male (and apparently 3 female) typical Broad-billed in coastal west Guerrero along Highway 200, 10 km east of Petacalco. We found two male (and apparently two female) Doubleday's 45 km farther east along Highway 200, i.e., about 15 km west of Zihuatanejo. Unfortunately, a military exercise being conducted between these points prevented field work to determine if the two forms were sympatric. Future studies should concentrate on this area.

**VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD** *Amazilia violiceps*

Like typical Broad-billed Hummingbirds, this species has been reported in Guerrero only from the northern interior (Friedmann *et al.*



1950). On 24 May 1990 we observed a single Violet-crowned Hummingbird feeding at flowers in a hotel garden in Zihuatanejo. We saw none in coastal west Guerrero on 11 Apr 1988, and only the one bird noted above 23–24 May 1990. Thus the species may be only a rare visitor to coastal Guerrero.

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** *Archilochus [=Stellula] calliope*

We saw 2–3 female Calliope Hummingbirds daily at Arroyo Grande, 13–15 Apr 1988. These birds were identified by their very small size (in comparison with species such as Bumblebee Hummingbird *Selasphorus* [= *Atthis*] *heloisa*), faint dusky flecking on their throats, a pale vinaceous wash on their flanks, slight rufous at the bases of the outer rectrices, and, importantly, wingtips projecting beyond the short tail at rest. These features are diagnostic of the female Calliope Hummingbird (Howell & Webb 1994). There appear to be only two previous records from Guerrero, a female taken in August, and a male in October (Griscom 1934).

**BARRED WOODCREEPER** *Dendrocolaptes certhia*

This species appears to be an uncommon resident of forests at 900–1500 m elevation on the Pacific slope of the Sierra Madre del Sur in Guerrero; we saw and tape-recorded at least one at Arroyo Grande, 15 Apr 1988, saw and heard one 5 km by road north of Nueva Delhi, 23 Mar 1990, and heard one near San Vicente de Benitez, 23 May 1990. The Barred Woodcreepers in Guerrero look quite distinct from those in eastern Mexico, although sounding similar: the bill is mostly flesh-coloured, and the throat and chest have more contrasting pale scalloping, characters of the subspecies *sheffleri*, considered endemic to the Sierra Madre del Sur of Oaxaca (Binford 1965, 1989). NG.

**STREAK-HEADED WOODCREEPER** *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*

Miller *et al.* (1957) reported this species as known from Guerrero by only three specimens, and Navarro (1992) considered it “rare” (see under Thicket Tinamou) and found it only at one site, in the cloud forest-semideciduous forest ecotone at 1200 m. We noted one at Arroyo Grande, 13 Apr 1988, one between Paraiso and Nueva Delhi, 22 Mar 1990, 4 between Paraiso and San Vicente de Benitez, 24 Mar 1990, and 1–2 near San Vicente, 21 May 1990. The species appears to be fairly common in Guerrero (900–1350 m) where, as in adjacent Oaxaca (Binford 1989), it is typical of semideciduous forest.

**EYE-RINGED FLATBILL** *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*

This species was first reported from Guerrero by Navarro (1986, 1992) who considered it “rare”. We saw two single birds at Arroyo Grande, 14 Apr 1988, and one bird, plus a nest at a different site, between Paraiso and Nueva Delhi, on 22 May 1990, suggesting that this easily overlooked flycatcher may be fairly common in Guerrero (1200–1500 m).

**WHITE-THROATED JAY** *Cyanolyca mirabilis*

This striking jay often is considered rare, e.g. by Peterson & Chalif (1973), and by Navarro (1992) who reported it from four sites

(seemingly contradicting his definition of rare as "seen only once or twice in the entire study") between 1800 and 2500 m. At a site 10 km by road SW of Filo de Caballo (2500 m), Howell and R. G. Wilson failed to find White-throated Jays during a full day, 14 Dec 1985; on 3 Jun 1986, however, they easily found 4-6 White-throated Jays, travelling with mixed-species flocks that included 5-6 Emerald Toucanets *Aulacorhynchus prasinus* and 10-15 Unicolored Jays *Aphelocoma unicolor*, two other species notably absent in December; this suggests some local and seasonal movement by all three species. We also saw 2 pairs of White-throated Jays 12-15 km by road north of Nueva Delhi (1900-2000 m), 16 Apr 1988.

#### NASHVILLE WARBLER *Vermivora ruficapilla*

This species winters commonly in Guerrero. However, a single Nashville Warbler 5 km by road north of Nueva Delhi on 22 May 1990 was notably late in the season to be still in southern Mexico (e.g., the latest date for Oaxaca is 8 May [Binford 1989] and for Mexico City, 6 May [Wilson & Ceballos-L. 1986]). The bird's very dull plumage combined with the date suggests it may have been a first-year female.

#### COLIMA WARBLER *Vermivora crissalis*

Howell observed a single Colima Warbler 10 km by road SW of Filo de Caballo, 14 Dec 1985. The only other records we known of from Guerrero are two (20 Sep and 17 Apr) listed by Miller *et al.* (1957).

#### TROPICAL PARULA *Parula pitiayumi*

We saw a Tropical Parula in deciduous thorn scrub at the edge of mangroves near Petacalco, 11 Apr 1988, and heard 2-3 singing between Paraiso and San Vicente de Benitez (950 m) on 21 May 1990. The only other record of this species from Guerrero is that of Dixon & Davis (1958) who collected a breeding female at Acahuizotla, on the interior slope of the Sierra Madre del Sur, in June 1953.

#### RED-LEGGED HONEYCREEPER *Cyanerpes cyaneus*

The Red-legged Honeycreeper appears to be a breeding resident (or summer resident?) in Guerrero (900-1400 m): we saw a male in alternate plumage at Arroyo Grande on 15 Apr 1988, 6 birds (including an alternate-plumaged male) between Paraiso and Nueva Delhi on 23 Mar 1990, 5-6 (including two males, one in full and one in partial alternate plumage) near San Vicente de Benitez, 24 Mar 1990, and 6-7 between Paraiso and San Vicente, 23 May 1990. R. G. Wilson (pers. comm.) saw a pair between San Vicente and Paraiso on 13 Jul 1988, and one bird between Paraiso and Nueva Delhi on 9 Aug 1992. The only other Pacific Slope record for this species west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec is 3 seen (including a male with enlarged testes collected) by Binford (1989) in the Sierra Madre del Sur of Oaxaca, 10 May 1964. NG.

#### WHITE-WINGED TANAGER *Spermagra* [= *Piranga*] *leucoptera*

Near Arroyo Grande in 1988 we saw a male on 13 Apr, a male and two females on 14 Apr, and a pair (and another bird heard) on 15 Apr;

we heard at least one bird near Nueva Delhi on 16 Apr 1988, saw a pair between Paraiso and San Vicente de Benitez on 17 Apr 1988, and heard one bird between Paraiso and San Vicente, 23 May 1990. Howell saw a male and heard other birds calling, 8 km by road north of Paraiso, 7 Oct 1993. R. G. Wilson (pers. comm.) saw up to 4 White-winged Tanagers between San Vicente and Paraiso, 30 Apr–1 May 1989, and between Paraiso and Nueva Delhi he saw a pair on 23 Mar 1990 and one bird on 8 Aug 1992. This species, with which we are familiar from many areas in Mexico and Central America, is distinctive by virtue of its plumage and structure, e.g., smaller than Flame-coloured Tanager *Piranga bidentata* with a proportionately smaller bill; the overall bright red plumage of the male, in combination with black lores and black wings with two narrow white wingbars, is unmistakable. Vocalizations (tape-recorded) agree with the calls of this species from other parts of its range in Mexico. We know of no other Pacific slope records of this species west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, but it appears to be fairly common in Guerrero in forest at 900–1500 m elevation. NG.

#### SLATE-BLUE [BLUE] SEEDEATER *Amaurospiza concolor relicta*

Howell saw two separate females of this species in roadside bamboo 15–20 km by road north of Nueva Delhi (2000 m), on 16 Apr 1988. This little-known form is endemic to southwest Mexico and was discovered, in Guerrero, in 1932 when it was described as a new species and genus (Griscom 1934). The other Guerrero records we are aware of are five collected in July and August 1939 and May 1940 (Orr & Ray 1945), one collected by C. C. Lamb 7 miles south of Mexcala, in June 1947 (MLZ specimen), and a male collected by F. A. Pitelka 3 miles W of Omiltemi (2450 m) in Apr 1950 (MVZ specimen).

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